

May 17, 1994

GMP #48

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Directors
Environmental Health Managers
Environmental Health Supervisors
Environmental Health Specialists

FROM: Donald J. Alexander, Director
Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services

SUBJECT: Sand Filter Systems Permitted Under Individual VPDES or
NPDES Permits Which Do Not Discharge
Discharge - Permits - Enforcement

After the adoption of the Alternative Discharging Sewage Treatment System Regulations for Individual Single Family Dwellings, certain implementation and enforcement issues were identified by several local health departments. A Discharge Task Force was created to address those issues. This GMP is a result of the task force's efforts.

Sand filter systems designed for sewage flows of less than 1000 gallons per day which were permitted under individual VPDES or NPDES permits must register under the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) General Permit and obtain an operation permit from the Department of Health (VDH) when their current VPDES or NPDES permit expires.

If one of these sand filter systems discharges and meets the construction standards contained in the Alternative Discharging Sewage Treatment Regulations for Single Family Dwellings (Discharge Regulations) in effect at the time of construction, then no modification of the existing system is necessary. If one of these sand filter systems discharges

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regularly as designed, but does not meet the construction requirements contained in the **Discharge Regulations** in effect at the time of construction, then GMP #30 should be followed to determine what, if any, modifications to the system should be required.

If, after registering under the General Permit, one of these sand filter systems which was permitted under an individual VPDES or NPDES permit does not discharge regularly (as it was designed to do), the owner should be asked to submit a plan for bringing the system into compliance. It should be noted that in lieu of renovating the sand filter that the owner in some cases may obtain a variance to the monitoring requirements contained in the **Discharge Regulations**. Variances will be considered on a case by case basis. If the system has not been brought into compliance within a reasonable period of time, then a Notice of Violation should be sent to the system owner and the local health department should take appropriate enforcement action.

pc: Office of Environmental Health Services
Cal M. Sawyer, Ph.D.

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